



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

FORMER BOY SCOUTS OFFICIAL PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING, DISTRIBUTING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

FORT WORTH, Texas—A former top official with Boy Scouts of America pleaded guilty in federal court here today on one count of receiving and distributing child pornography, following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Douglas Sovereign Smith Jr., 61, the former national director of programs for the Boy Scouts national headquarters in Irving, Texas, became part of a joint investigation between Bundeskriminalamt (BKA – the German federal police service) and ICE.

Smith, of Colleyville, Texas, pleaded guilty before the Honorable Charles Bleil, U.S. Magistrate Judge, to information which charged him with one count of receipt and distribution of child pornography. He faces a statutory prison sentence of not less than five years nor more than 20 years, a \$250,000 fine, and up to a lifetime of supervised release. Sentencing is set for July 12 before the Honorable Terry R. Means, U.S. District Judge.

Smith was employed by the Boy Scouts of America for 39 years. Before retiring last month following these allegations, Smith held the position of National Director of Programs.

“We’ve learned that Internet child pornography infects a wide variety of occupations and income levels,” said Special Agent-in-Charge Kenneth W. Cates. “Under the ICE Operation Predator initiative, our special agents will continue to pursue all those who produce, distribute and possess child pornography. Protecting the future of America is the least we can do.” Cates heads the ICE Dallas Office of Investigations, which includes north Texas and all of Oklahoma.

According to documents filed in court, in November 2003 German police (BKA) executed a search warrant on the Duesseldorf home of a German man suspected in trafficking in child pornography over the Internet. The German police seized the man's computers and performed forensic analyses on them. The examination revealed images of child pornography embedded in multiple e-mails received by the man and which had also been sent to several other e-mail addresses in America. In an undercover operation, German police, posing as this arrested German man, received many e-mails from America containing child pornography. The BKA then forwarded all available information and evidence, including e-mail addresses, image files, date/time stamp for transmissions, and computer names of intended recipients to the ICE Cyber Crimes Center via the ICE Attaché in Frankfurt for investigation.

The ICE Attaché then forwarded the information it gathered to ICE officials in the United States, who determined that one of the e-mail addresses which had received images of child pornography was registered to Douglas Sovereign Smith Jr. of Colleyville, Texas. Pursuant to a search warrant commanding America On Line (AOL) to produce electronically stored data for Smith's AOL e-mail account, multiple images in video format of males under the age of 18 years engaged in sexually explicit conduct were discovered.

Last month, ICE agents executed a search warrant at Smith's home, and seized his computers and computer discs. A forensic analysis that was performed on the computers and discs revealed a total of 520 images of child pornography, including video clips. The child pornography depicted males under that age of 18 engaged in sexually explicit conduct and among those images were sexually explicit depictions of actual and known prepubescent males under the age of 12 years.

U.S. Attorney Richard Roper, Northern District of Texas, praised the investigative efforts of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Assistant U.S. Attorney Bret Helmer is prosecuting the case.

#ICE#

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities